

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday July 8, 2010 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chairman Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, Chris Lyons, Betty Rosania, Doug Sacks, Bill Knapp, Rick Willard, Dorcas McHugh, Ken Rizzio.

Members absent: John Adamian, Joan Hughes, Betty Standish, Brian Silver, Jay Amoruso, Jonah Evenson, Doug Sacks and Rene Ortega.

Also in attendance: Stathis Manousos – Town Council Liaison; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner, Ellyn Laramie – Chamber of Commerce.

3. Old Business

- a. Farmer's Market – Howard Greenblatt read an email from Doug Sacks regarding the status of the Market – July 2. Need for some Public Works assistance, extended hours to 6:30, 20 tents, new vendors, video, local merchants/businesses. Peter Gillespie noted that the idea of having the market in the Winter at Comstock has been suggested.
- b. Wethersfield Shops Local – Peter Gillespie reported that the first Shops Local Social Event has been scheduled for Late July, Coop Ads are being prepared for Wethersfield Life, over 70 businesses have now signed up for the program.
- c. Façade Improvement Program – Wolcott Hill Road - Peter Gillespie reported that the applicant has requested relief from the 10 year amortization period for this loan as a result of the delay scheduling the loan closing. Mr. Gillespie provided a history of this application dating back to 2007. After a lengthy discussion Ken Rizzio motioned to revise the amortization period for this loan from 10 to 7 years and allow the liability for the loan amounts to be divided equally amongst the 3 condominium owners so that they are individually responsible for the loan repayment if they were to sell or close their respective businesses during the loan period. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and the vote showed all members in favor.

4. New Business

- a. Vacant Property Updates – Peter Gillespie reported briefly on the status of a number of the vacant properties in Town including: Comstock Ferre, Fun Zone, Northeast Utilities and the Weight Watchers Building.
- b. Town Calendar and Business Directory – Mr. Gillespie reported that he will be gearing up for the RFP for this project in the near future.
- c. Mr. Gillespie reported that the next round of funding applications are due on July 20 and the Town is considering applying for additional funds for the façade program and the Silas Deane streetscape improvement project in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Knapp motioned to support this request and Betty

Standish seconded the motion with all members voting in favor. Mrs. Standish noted that the existing improvements could use some maintenance particularly the overgrown weeds.

- d. Election of Officers 2010/2011 – Mr. Willard motion to elect Howard Greenblatt as Chairman and Chris Lyons as Vice Chair for 2010/2011, Dorcas McHugh seconded the motion. Mr. Lyons suggested that someone else take over as Vice Chair since he has had difficulty attending the meetings recently. All members voted in favor of the motion.
5. Reports -
 - Town Manager's Report – No report was given.
 - Town Council Liaison's Report – Mr. Manousos reported on his thoughts for the creation of a new loan improvement program that could be tailored to interior improvements to encourage businesses to come to Town. Mr. Gillespie was asked to explore this idea and report back at a future meeting.
 - Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie reported that the PZC will soon be appointed a new liaison as Mr. Knecht was not reappointed to the Commission. Mr. Knecht was thanked for his years of service.
 - Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh reported on the highlights on the June meeting including a meeting with the new owners of Comstock Ferre, recent ad placements in Metro newspapers generating great interest and a Fall event calendar is planned.
 - Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – No report was given.
 - Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Ellyn Laramie discussed a well attended wine tasting event and the upcoming CornFest scheduled for September 18.
 - Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report - Peter Gillespie referred to his July Report.
6. Chairman's Report – Chairman Greenblatt reported that he was encouraged by all of the recent good news and events in Town.
7. Sub-Committee Reports -
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Financial Strategies – Nothing additional to report.
8. Minutes- June 2010 Meeting – Bill Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes. Betty Standish seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
9. Next Meeting – August 12, 2010
10. Correspondence – There was no additional correspondence to report.
11. Adjournment – Chair Greenblatt made a motion to adjourn at 1:46 p.m. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Gillespie

Director of Planning and Economic Development